

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

MARCH 31, 2009

Autism impacts more than 64 million people worldwide. In California, someone is diagnosed with the disorder every 12 minutes. The prevalence of autism is about 6 per 1,000 people, with about four times as many boys affected as girls. The number of people known to have autism has increased dramatically since the 1980s, partly due to changes in diagnostic practice.

Special Needs Network, Inc. is a non-profit, community-based organization that has been on the forefront of assisting low-income children and adults with autism or other developmental disabilities, and their families. Its accomplishments include providing essential advocacy training and resources to more than 10,000 needy Los Angeles County residents.

Special Needs Network, Inc. will celebrate World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, 2009 and Autism Awareness Month in April with a series of events including workshops, a special reception and other activities. These activities are designed to raise awareness of autism and related disorders and to share critical information regarding the importance of diagnosis and early intervention.

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I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

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Proclaim **April 2, 2009 as World Autism Awareness Day and the month of April as Autism Awareness Month** throughout Los Angeles County, and in doing so, urge all citizens, city officials, as well as community groups, clubs and organizations to join this effort in promoting awareness throughout our communities.

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